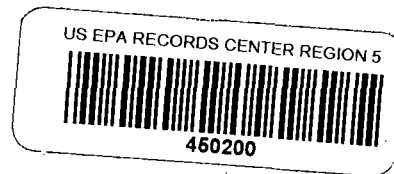




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

I. 1  
5/20/02



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

May 20, 2002

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Mark Latham  
Gardner Carton & Douglas  
321 North Clark Street, Suite 3400  
Chicago, Illinois 60610-4795

Re: Nicor Mercury Spill Sites  
Demand Letter

Dear Mr. Latham:

You contacted me in March, 2002, in response to a demand letter issued to Nicor Gas Company (Nicor) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on March 12, 2002. At that time you indicated that Nicor was interested in paying the U.S. EPA's response costs, but requested that the Agency verify that its demand included all costs for all Nicor-related mercury response activities and that U.S. EPA provide additional background on the services rendered by U.S. EPA's contractors.

Enclosed are: (1) an updated Itemized Cost Summary that includes costs for all sites/sub-sites/operable units related to Nicor mercury response activities; and (2) summary reports and progress reports prepared by U.S. EPA's contractors that describe the work those contractors performed. For the most part, attached sampling results referenced in these reports have not been included. U.S. EPA has already provided these data to Nicor, and they go beyond your request for further general background information on the types of work performed by these contractors. In addition, more specific contractor costing information has been removed from the progress reports because the contractor has identified it as Confidential Business Information under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B.

Your request for this supplemental information was prompt, reasonable, and made in good faith. As a result, U.S. EPA is willing to agree that if payment of the full amount (\$132,042.99) indicated in the enclosed Itemized Cost Summary is made within 30 days of the date of this letter, no interest is due on the demanded amount. If, however, payment is not received within

30 days of the date of this letter, interest shall begin accruing as of March 12, 2002, under 42 U.S.C. §9607(a).

Sincerely yours,



Thomas J. Krueger  
Associate Regional Counsel

Enclosures

bcc: Carol Ropski, U.S. EPA (SE-5J)  
Brad Stimple, U.S. EPA (SE-5J)  
State Contact  
Tony Audia, U.S. EPA (MF-10J)  
Records Center (SMR-7J)  
ERB Read File